

## Preventing Sewer Back-ups

Maintenance and Helpful Hints

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City of Santa Barbara  
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Santa Barbara, CA  
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[www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

## Preventing Sewer Back-ups

Sewer back-ups are not only unpleasant and inconvenient to deal with, but they can also result in costly damage. Here are a few simple steps to help prevent the problem from occurring on your property.

### Routine Maintenance

Regular maintenance of your lateral line will prevent obstructed flow. This is the outside piping that takes water and waste from your house to the city sewer line. Roots from trees, large shrubs, and plants are attracted to water. So, if your lateral line is cracked, roots will gravitate towards the water source, enter the line, and eventually interfere with the flow. Other factors that can affect flow are the age and material of your lateral line.

### Backwater Valve

A backwater valve can be installed onto some lateral lines to prevent sewer back-ups. This device is required by law under certain circumstances. Homes, businesses, and other structures with drainage fixtures such as shower pans, tubs, toilets, or sink rims located below the elevation of the next upstream manhole cover, are required to install and maintain an approved backwater valve. Installing a backwater valve requires a permit. Contact a licensed plumber to determine the need for this device or a suitable alternative.

If you already have a backwater valve, call a licensed plumber to verify that it is in good working order.

### Helpful Tips

- ☑ Do not put bulky paper or trash into the sewers through toilets or sinks. Back-ups in your sewer lateral line can result, because the line can be as small as three inches in diameter.
- ☑ Do not put bulky paper or trash into storm drains; these items clog the drains and can cause or increase flooding.
- ☑ Do not dispose of oil, fat, or grease into the sewer through toilets or sinks. Do not dispose of oil, fat, or grease in storm drains. It is a violation of the Municipal Code to dispose of these materials – regardless of the source – through a sewer or storm drain. Commercial operations such as restaurants are required to have a grease trap. Industrial waste generators are required to install a pre-treatment facility to process waste prior to disposal.
- ☑ If you are not the property owner and want to protect against potential uninsurable damage to your personal property, share these maintenance and preventive tips with your landlord, manager, or the property owner.

For questions or more information,  
contact a licensed plumber, or Water Resources at 564-5413.  
For permit information, contact Building and Safety at 564-5485.



## Summer Break... Make it Great!

Register NOW for City Parks & Recreation's affordable full and half day summer camps and sports clinics for youth aged 4-17. One and two week sessions run from June 22 through August 28. Twelve new camps have been added to this year's offerings along with all the usual favorites. All summer camps and clinics may be registered for at any time with the exception of the popular Junior Lifeguard Program. Registration for this program is Saturday, April 11 from 8-9:30 a.m. either online using eRecreation or in person at the Cabrillo Pavilion Bathhouse. *(Continued...)*

**Save Water, Save Money!**

**FREE**  
**Rain Sensors**  
**Available\***

**Call 564-5460**  
or visit us online at  
[WWW.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water](http://WWW.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water)

**Start Saving NOW!**

city of santa barbara  
Water Conservation Program

\*for qualifying customers

# Summer Break Continued

Find more online information on our spring and summer recreation programs for youth, teens and adults in the Parks & Recreation Activity Guide, at [www.sbparksandrecreation.com](http://www.sbparksandrecreation.com).

Once there, link to the special summer camp website which features complete camp descriptions, schedules, counselor profiles and photos. Don't wait...camps fill quickly! For more information, call 564-5418.



*fly non-stop*  
**Sacramento**  
*Horizon Air* [horizonair.com](http://horizonair.com) [flysba.com](http://flysba.com) **sba** Santa Barbara AIRPORT

## Save Money, Save Water, And Get a Rebate!

### Here's how you can help save water!

- ✓ **Rebates available on high-efficiency toilets, clothes washers, and more.**
- ✓ **Receive a free water check-up for your home or business.**
- ✓ **Free Rain Sensor available for qualifying customers.**
- ✓ **Take the 20-Gallon Challenge.**

city of santa barbara  
 Water Conservation Program

[www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water), or call 564-5460

### DIRECTORY OF CITY DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES

Area Code: (805)

City Hall, 735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Website: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

<b>Airport</b>	967.7111	<b>Library</b>	962.7653	<b>Cater Water Treatment Plant</b>	897.2628
<b>Parking</b>	967.2745	<b>Eastside Branch</b>	963.3727	<b>Downtown Parking</b>	564.5656
<b>Animal Control</b>	963.1513	<b>Mayor and Council</b>	564.5318	<b>Distribution &amp; Collection</b>	
<b>City Administrator</b>	564.5305	<b>Parks and Recreation</b>	564.5418	Water & Sewer Mains	564.5413
<b>City Attorney</b>	564.5326	Adapted Recreation	564.5421	After Hours	963.4286
<b>City Clerk</b>	564.5309	Adult Sports	564.5422	<b>El Estero Wastewater Plant</b>	568.1010
<b>City Employment</b>	564.5316	Aquatics	897.2680	<b>Engineering</b>	564.5363
<b>City-TV Channel 18</b>	564.5311	Community Services	963.7567	<b>Graffiti Hotline</b>	897.2513
<b>Community Development</b>	564.5502	Creeks and Water Quality	897.2658	<b>Permit Counter</b>	564.5388
Building & Safety	564.5485	Cultural Arts	897.1982	<b>Pot Hole Hotline</b>	897.2630
Housing & Redevelopment	564.5461	Golf	687.7087	<b>Shopping Cart Hotline</b>	1.800.252.4613
Planning	564.5470	Active Adults & Classes	897.2519	<b>Street Light Hotline</b>	564.5416
<b>Finance</b>	564.5334	Street Trees	564.5434	<b>Street Maintenance</b>	564.5413
ABOP Hotline*	963.1852	Teen Programs	897.2650	<b>Traffic Signal Hotline</b>	564.5417
Business Licenses	564.5346	Tennis	564.5573	<b>Transportation Operations</b>	564.5394
Purchasing	564.5349	Youth Activities	564.5495	<b>Transportation Planning</b>	564.5385
Recycling	564.5631	<b>Police</b>	897.2300	<b>Water Conservation Hotline</b>	564.5460
Trash Complaints	564.5669	Emergency Use	9-1-1	<b>Water Resources Admin.</b>	564.5387
Water Billing	564.5343	Non-Emergency Use	897.2300	<b>Waterfront</b>	564.5531
<b>Fire (non-emergency use)</b>	965.5254	<b>Public Works</b>	564.5377	Harbor Patrol	564.5530
* Antifreeze, Batteries, Used Motor Oil and Filters, Latex Paints				Parking	564.5523